

Action  
ER 86-4500

## OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

### Routing Slip

	ACTION	INFO
1. D/OCA	X	
2. DD/Legislation		
3. DD/Senate Affairs		X
4. Ch/Senate Affairs		X
5. DD/House Affairs		X
6. Ch/House Affairs		
7. Admin Officer		
8. Executive Officer		X
9. FOIA Officer		
10. Constituent Inquiries Officer		
11.		
12.		

SUSPENSE

10 Oct 86  
Date

Action Officer:

Dave Gries

Remarks:



/ 30 Sept 86  
Name/Date

25X1

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OIL	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	Counselor to CIA		X		
18	ES		X		
19	C/S		X		
20	C/LA		X		
21	C/CATF		X		
22					
SUSPENSE		10 Oct 86 <small>Date</small>			

Remarks

To 13: Please arrange for meeting with Congressional Ad Hoc group as requested and advise DCI where things stand.

Executive Secretary

29 Sep 86

Date

3637 (10-81)

25X1

The Director of Central Intelligence


Washington, D. C. 20505

4389

29 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/OCA  
FROM: DCI  
SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Central American  
Working Group

I think we should invite this group in  
for a round table discussion.

  
William J. Casey

ccs - DDCI  
Counselor to CIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 18, 1986

Hon. George P. Shultz  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With the passage of the bipartisan Edwards-Skelton amendment in the House and reaffirmation by the Senate of its earlier support for aid to the contras, the Congress seems finally on its way toward providing substantial economic and military aid to the Nicaraguan democratic resistance. We are beginning a new, historic chapter in U.S. policy toward Central America. We now owe it to both ourselves and our friends in the region to make sure this policy succeeds.

We would like to participate in the continuing effort to develop a long-term strategy which will bring democracy and peace to Central America. There are several important areas -- aid implementation, media campaigns, further building of the bipartisan consensus -- in which we believe congressional supporters of the aid package must be more directly involved.

We cannot afford to be complacent. Domestic and international opinion opposing aid to the contras is still very strong. A fragile coalition exists in the Congress. Opponents of this policy have waged this battle before and are going to re-group and "wait for something to go wrong." The burden of proof is on us, as supporters, and on the contras.

A bipartisan consensus on contra aid is emerging because more Members of Congress are convinced we have a vital national interest in bringing real democracy to Nicaragua. The key to success will be the extent to which we can convince not merely ourselves, but the Nicaraguan people, that there truly exists a viable democratic alternative to Marxist-Leninist rule.

We must prove this by supporting groups which are unified, democratic, and respectful of human rights. Otherwise, no matter how much the Sandinistas repress their people, or support neighboring insurgencies, or ally themselves with communist nations, Nicaraguans will have neither the desire nor the confidence to seek political change. At that point, there will be legitimate questions about whether continued U.S. involvement in the aid program serves U.S. interests.

Page Two  
Secretary Shultz

We obviously have to give support for the contras a chance to work. Time works on the side of the guerrillas. They cannot win tomorrow, but they can ultimately prevail through a gradual process of providing political and psychological support for those who may be encouraged to speak out inside Nicaragua.


Yet, if we cannot expect too much too soon from the contras, we must also be prepared to expect different things from them than we have in the past. They must prove themselves to be democratic and to observe human rights. They must show they can become a cohesive fighting force. They must have a blueprint for their country. We must never forget that our aim is to bring democracy, not another dictatorship, to Nicaragua.

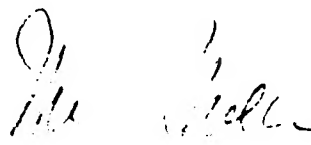
Opponents will focus on three basic areas: contra human rights violations, lack of aid accountability, and resistance group disunity. It will be important for the contras to try to prove themselves in these areas immediately, for both their supporters and opponents. They will face heavy pressure to show they have popular support inside Nicaragua, that they can fight effectively and cohesively, that they can secure and hold territory, and that they can stimulate unrest in urban areas. It is a huge responsibility, but one which we must expect the contras to meet, not overnight, and not without help from the United States, but within a reasonable time frame and with substantial success.

We believe the success of this program is dependent on a degree of congressional oversight and coordination not previously exercised by contra aid supporters. We want to assist the administration by serving as an Ad Hoc Central America Working Group. We have come a long way toward crafting an aid program which responds to various criticisms and holds great promise of success. If we expect to keep the momentum going, we must show progress in the field, demonstrate that we are following a pre-determined game plan, and thus continue to attract a broader group of bipartisan supporters.

We look forward to maintaining regular contact with you and others who are most importantly involved in bringing the cause of freedom and democracy to Central America.

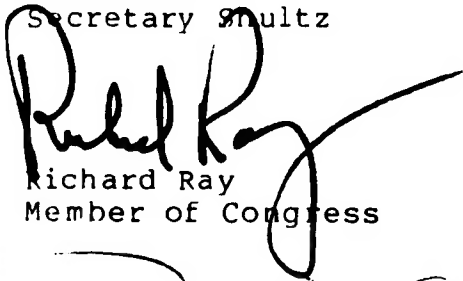
Sincerely,

  
Mickey Edwards  
Member of Congress

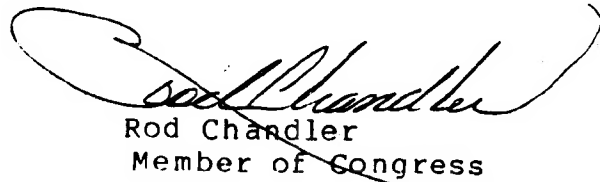
  
Ike Skelton  
Member of Congress

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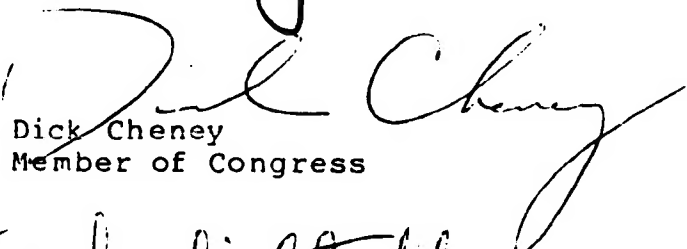
Secretary Schultz




Richard Ray  
Member of Congress



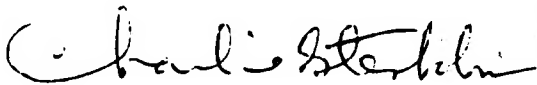
Rod Chandler  
Member of Congress



Dick Cheney  
Member of Congress



Buddy Roemer  
Member of Congress



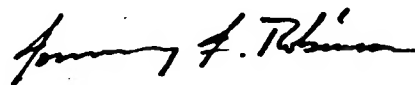
Charles W. Stenholm  
Member of Congress



Connie Mack  
Member of Congress



E. Thomas Coleman  
Member of Congress



Tommy F. Robinson  
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Donald T. Regan  
Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter  
Hon. Elliott Abrams